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ISRAEL MAY ASK WESTERN POWERS FOR SUBMARINES, BEN GURION INDICATES

LONDON, July 18. (JTA) -- Israel may ask the Western Powers for submarines to balance the Russian subs delivered to Egypt, Premier David Ben Gurion indicated tonight in a television interview broadcast by Britain's Independent Television network.

Asked whether Israel had officially asked any of the Western Powers for arms to balance Russian submarine deliveries, Mr. Ben Gurion said: "We may ask." Pressed about what kinds of arms Israel would want, Mr. Ben Gurion said: "Well, first of all, defensive arms against submarines and perhaps also some submarines."

The Premier indicated his belief that the three Egyptian undersea craft were being operated by crews from outside Egypt. Asked where he thought these subs would operate, he said possibly the Mediterranean, the Red Sea or the Gulf of Akaba, but that was a question for the Egyptian command, "or perhaps some command of some Great Power." He emphasized that if these U-boats interfered with Israeli shipping in the Gulf of Akaba, Israel would have to answer with the same means--"not only from beneath the waters but perhaps from above."

When the interviewer asked him to comment on Egyptian President Nasser's statement that Mr. Ben Gurion was not to be trusted and that he talked peace while he planned war, the Israel Premier said that Col. Nasser could "test our sincerity and sit down and see whether we mean peace or not." While he did not necessarily trust Col. Nasser, the Premier noted, he was ready to "negotiate peace with anybody who is ready to negotiate peace."

What Israel wanted from Egypt in the form of a settlement, he said, was a stopping of warfare and then cooperation. In return, Israel would offer peace and cooperation. He could not visualize the same situation arising which had led to the recent Sinai-Gaza campaign and did not think another such operation would be necessary.

Says Israel Could Absorb 2,000,000 Jews from Communist Lands

The Arab refugees cannot be accepted back in Israel unless the Jewish refugees who have since arrived are expelled, Mr. Ben Gurion said. "We are not going to do that," he added. He confirmed that negotiations had been going on between Israel and some of the refugees, although he was "not too hopeful." Yet, he continued, "one ought always to be in some hope."

Israel, the Premier stated, could absorb another 2,000,000 Jews, but whether it would get them depended on the policy of a Great Power which had to let them out. Asked to comment on the recent changes in the Kremlin high command, he doubted that the changes would make much difference in the Soviet Union's foreign policy.

He thought that a Middle East settlement could be reached without agreement among the major powers, but felt that such an agreement would make a Middle East settlement much easier. He expressed a willingness to see Israel-Arab border rectifications by mutual consent.

The future of Israel, Mr. Ben Gurion said, lay mainly in the efforts which Jews in Israel were ready to make for the development of the country; building it up, conquering the desert, integrating the immigrants and fostering science. The major problems in this sphere, he said in conclusion, were integration of the immigrants and cultivation of the desert.

The Israel Premier played down the importance of recent Syrian border clashes, stating he did not see them as new warfare. "But it is worrying us," he admitted, "because it may be due to an internal struggle in different groups in Syria and perhaps also to the instigation of some foreign power."

U. S. PROMISES ISRAEL TO INTERVENE WITH SAUDI ARABIA ON AKABA THREATS

JERUSALEM, July 18. (JTA) -- Israel raised with the United States the issue of the ever-increasing wave of Saudi Arabian threats against freedom of navigation in the Gulf of Akaba, and Washington has indicated it will take up the matter with Saudi Arabia, informed sources here reported today.

It is understood that Israel views with gravity Saudi Arabian threats, particularly in light of a reported agreement with Egypt for Saudi Arabia to fortify the islands of Tiran

and Sanafir at the entrance to the gulf. Israeli legal experts are now studying the implications for Israel of the recent transfer to Saudi Arabia by Egypt of the two islands which in 1951 were "leased out" to Egypt by King Saud to establish a blockade against Israeli shipping.

Israeli informants said it was "significant" that the Saudi-Egyptian campaign against Israeli navigation in the gulf was accelerated after Israel adopted a policy of silence about sending a test ship through the Suez Canal, apparently creating an impression in the Arab world that Israel had abandoned the idea of such a test altogether.

White House Mum on Reported Message by Eisenhower to King Saud

WASHINGTON, July 18. (JTA) -- White House officials today declined comment on a published report that President Eisenhower has dispatched a special personal letter to King Saud of Saudi Arabia attempting to calm mounting Arab excitement over the use of the Akaba Gulf by Israeli-bound shipping.

The Chicago Daily News reported today that it was learned at the United Nations in New York that President Eisenhower's message was an answer to a letter from the King. The King had protested the U. S. stand favoring "innocent passage" for all shipping in the gulf. The Chicago newspaper said that according to high diplomatic sources in the United Nations headquarters, the Eisenhower letter made three points:

1. The United States respects Saudi Arabian territorial sovereignty in Saudi waters;
2. It believes differences between the Arabs and Israel on rights of shipping in the gulf can be settled peacefully under international law, the United Nations Charter, and UN resolutions;
3. It hopes force will not be used by any party to the dispute. The United States will assist the victim of an attack.

MRS. HALPRIN REPORTS ON POSSIBILITY OF MIGRATION FROM U. S. TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, July 18. (JTA) -- Thousands of middle class American Jewish families might settle in Israel if proper conditions were available and if a more realistic exchange rate were assured, Mrs. Rose Halprin, acting chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency executive, told the Zionist Actions Committee today. Mrs. Halprin reported that Zionist youth activity was on the increase in the United States and that a number of new Zionist groups had been organized on college campuses.

Abraham Shenkar, another member of the Agency executive, revealed that eight American professionals were recently prevented from immigrating to Israel by housing and employment difficulties. He urged more Zionist activity among American Jewish youth, asserting that the major problem of American Jewish youth groups was a shortage of leaders.

Eliahu Dobkin, another member of the Jewish Agency executive, reported that the problem of immigration to Israel from Western countries was the major question confronting the Zionist movement. He said there has been an increase in immigration in general, but not from the United States. At the same time, he reported that he had found growing sympathy for Israel in Jewish communities abroad since the Sinai campaign.

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America, warned the delegates that the Zionist movement is losing the "soul" of American Jewry even if it gains its contributions. The success of Zionism, he continued, will be measured by the contact it establishes with the soul of the American Jew. For that purpose, he said, contact must be made with Jewish intellectuals as well as the individual Jew. Jewish writers, journalists and scientists occupy key positions in the intellectual field which, he said, has been abandoned by the Zionist movement. He called for the intellectuals' being brought back into the Zionist fold.

Zvi Lurie, member of the Agency executive, decried the tendency to denigrate the accomplishments of the Zionist movement recently. He insisted that Zionism, as a liberation movement, was a success, particularly when contrasted with other liberation movements such as the Irish, Armenian and others. Zionism's achievements, he added, have continued into the "second generation" and the organization department of the movement is active in 50 countries.

LAST MINUTE NEWS

CAIRO TURNED DOWN "GREAT POWER" PEACE MOVE, BEN GURION DISCLOSES

JERUSALEM, July 18. (JTA) -- One of the Great Powers sent a special peace emissary to Cairo and Jerusalem in an effort to achieve an Israel-Arab settlement, but Cairo turned him down, Premier David Ben Gurion told the Zionist Actions Committee here tonight.

Mr. Ben Gurion said that Israel gave all possible assistance to the peace envoy, but the latter returned from Cairo "in tragic disappointment" and in the clear realization that the Egyptian dictator did not want peace with Israel. Mr. Ben Gurion did not disclose the name of the interested power nor when the mission took place, but indicated that it was during Col. Nasser's regime and before the Sinai operation.

ORGANIZED JEWRY IN HUNGARY SEEKS CONTACT WITH JEWISH GROUPS ABROAD

LONDON, July 18. (JTA) -- It is the intention of organized Hungarian Jewry to establish contact with leading Jewish organizations abroad, particularly the World Jewish Congress, Endre Sos, president of the Central Board of Hungarian Jewry, has declared, according to a report reaching here from Budapest. Mr. Sos made his announcement in a speech following his election as president of the board. Imre Miklos, a high official of the Hungarian Government's Office for Church Affairs, was present when the announcement was made.

"We feel united with world Jewry," Mr. Sos told his audience, "and Jews throughout the world should feel the same way." He added that Hungarian Jews look forward to a visit to Budapest of a World Jewish Congress delegation. Mr. Miklos told the Jews that the government would not tolerate anti-Semitism, the report from Budapest said. He also asserted that the Hungarian Government looked with approval upon the new program of the Central Board of Hungarian Jewry.

Another speaker at the post-election meeting, was Alexander Scheiber, director of the rabbinical seminary, who said that the board's new program would open a new cultural era for Hungarian Jews. He said it was a responsibility of the leadership to make certain that the high spiritual level traditional to Hungarian Jewry be maintained.

Mr. Sos, who was elected president of the Budapest Jewish Community a week before his elevation to the head of the central federation of Hungarian Jews, is an author of biographies of Zola, Benjamin Franklin and Cervantes, as well as a history of European fascism and anti-Semitism and a study of Jews in rural Hungary. Among the three new vice-presidents of the board is a representative of Orthodox Jewry.

JEWISH COMMUNAL LIFE IN POLAND TO TERMINATE SOON, LEADER PREDICTS

LONDON, July 18. (JTA) -- The history of the Polish Jewish community is coming to an end, H. A. Goodman, Agudas Israel leader, declared here today upon his return from a visit to Poland. He estimated that "in a comparatively short period Jewish communal life in Poland will be terminated, for all practical purposes."

With the exception of a small hard core, Mr. Goodman said, emigration from Poland will go on. He expressed the belief that but for new problems which have arisen, such as the arrival of repatriates from the Soviet Union, emigration would have been greater. He estimated the number of repatriated Jews at about 6,000 and said they had to contend with many difficulties.

Mr. Goodman reported that Polish Jewish leaders would like to see the remains of tens of thousands of Jews slaughtered and buried in Poland's fields and forests exhumed and reburied in sanctified ground. No financial assistance was forthcoming for this purpose in Poland itself, he added.

TUNISIAN PREMIER REITERATES HIS PLEDGE ON EQUAL RIGHTS FOR JEWS

TUNIS, July 18. (JTA) -- Tunisian Premier Habib Bourguiba reiterated again today that his government will guarantee the equality of Tunisian Jews with their Moslem fellow citizens and expressed his understanding of the basic necessity of maintaining Jewish life in Tunisia under the leadership of Tunisian Jews.

M. Bourguiba made his statement to A. L. Easterman, political director of the World Jewish Congress, who would uptoday a three-week tour of North Africa. Mr. Easterman also conferred with other Tunisian officials, the Council of Tunisian Jewish Communities and the Jewish community of this city.

During a lengthy conversation which covered a range of domestic and external questions affecting the status of the Jewish community in this country, Premier Bourguiba said he and his government hoped that Tunisian Jews would make a maximum contribution to the development and consolidation of this country. He noted that Jewish nationals of Tunisia had always received the fullest protection of the state which would not, under any circumstances, tolerate any form of discrimination against them.

In connection with this point, Mr. Easterman expressed the World Jewish Congress' deep appreciation for M. Bourguiba's public protest last fall against the Egyptian Government's victimization of Tunisian Jews in Egypt together with other Jews residing in that country. Tunisia was the only Arab country to protest Nasser's anti-Jewish measures against its Jewish nationals.

Before coming to Tunisia, Mr. Easterman stayed in Morocco for two weeks and conferred with Moroccan government leaders and officials of the Moroccan Jewish community on the future of Jewish emigration and various domestic problems relating to the status and the functions of the Jewish community. He has been invited back to Morocco in the near future to continue the conversations.

NAZI VICTIMS BARRED FROM PENSION RAISES BY NEW GERMAN LAW

BONN, July 18. (JTA) -- The Bundestag has passed an amendment to the Federal Indemnification Law, barring Nazi victims from any increase in general German pension or salary rates introduced after January 1, 1957.

J. C. A. DECIDES TO HELP JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN BRAZIL WITH LOANS

LONDON, July 18. (JTA) -- A new loan fund for Jewish immigrants to Brazil has been established with Jewish Colonization support, it was reported here today at a quarterly meeting of the JCA. The fund, opened in Rio de Janeiro, is the third in Brazil--the other two are in Sao Paulo.

The JCA voted funds to expand activities of loan funds for immigrants, artisans, small businessmen and farmers in Canada, Australia and France. It also set aside allocations for refugee reception activities in various countries which have received Jewish exiles from Poland, Hungary, Egypt and North Africa.

The JCA board decided to make further grants for the reconstruction and modernization of the Mikveh Israel Agricultural School in Israel, subsidize research fellowships in the United Kingdom for members of the agricultural faculty of the Hebrew University and aid married children of settlers JCA had originally set up in Palestine to settle in Israel settlements.

NEW ORLEANS COURT TO DECIDE ON ISSUE OF MIXED SEATING IN SYNAGOGUE

NEW ORLEANS, July 18. (JTA) -- A secular court judge took under advisement today a plea for an injunction from a minority group in Chevra Thillim Congregation to ban a plan for mixed seating voted by the majority. Judge Frank J. Stitch of Civil District Court announced this action after hearing concluding arguments from attorneys for both sides and said he hoped to announce his decision by the end of July.

In his closing arguments, David Gertler, attorney for the plaintiffs, stressed that one of the basic principles which led the minority group to seek the injunction was the protection of the rights of a minority from violation by the majority. Asserting that lay witnesses for the majority group had testified there could be no objection to separation of the sexes during worship on theological grounds, Mr. Gertler said that the plaintiffs could not pray in the synagogue if mixed seating was retained.

Robert Weinstein, attorney for the defendant, said that the four rabbinical experts for the plaintiffs were in disagreement as to whether Chevra Thillim could be considered Orthodox, since it has no center "Bimah" and the microphone is used for services both of which are in violation of Jewish Law. He argued there was, therefore, no basis for the injunction.

U. J. A. LEADERS HEAR REPORT ON ISRAEL'S ABSORPTION OF REFUGEES

NEW YORK, July 18. (JTA) -- The people of Israel have responded to a current Jewish refugee crisis by putting aside all questions of their ability to absorb more immigrants, and to save lives are taking in newcomers "at a feverish rate," Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal reported today, returning from a visit to the Jewish state.

"By the end of July Israel's people will have welcomed almost 60,000 new immigrants in seven months and must plan on finding room for 6,000 to 7,000 monthly for the remainder of 1957," the UJA national executive head told 150 leaders of the UJA of Greater New York, meeting to conduct a "person to person" telephone solicitation for refugee rescue funds.

Rabbi Friedman declared that new Jewish refugees for 1957 are expected to total at least 120,000 persons who must be resettled in free lands. "Israel will provide haven for the vast majority." The refugee total includes 17,000 Jews who fled Communist Hungary in last winter's general uprising, more than 24,000 Jews stripped of their belongings and driven from Egypt by Egyptian dictator Nasser; some 40,000 Jews who have emerged to date from areas of tension in Eastern Europe and North Africa, plus 40,000 expected from most of these areas in the next five months.

"Because they once more put the need to save endangered lives above considerations of national well-being, the people of Israel find themselves also engaged in a desperate battle to ward off a great economic crisis," the UJA leader told the group. He added, "only prompt and full aid, particularly through the UJA, can provide the thousands of housing units needed for the newcomers, can speed agricultural expansion and settlement and accelerate the process of turning needy immigrants into useful, established citizens earning their own way."

AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR SPORTS IN ISRAEL HONORS U. S. AMBASSADOR

NEW YORK, July 18. (JTA) -- Ambassador Edward B. Lawson, U.S. envoy to Israel, was honored at a luncheon here today by the U.S. Committee for Sports in Israel, in appreciation of his support of recreational programs for the youth in Israel. Principal speaker was Semah Cecil Hyman, Israel Consul General in New York.

In accepting an award presented to him at the luncheon, Ambassador Lawson said that in Israel, there has been active interest in American athletes visiting and demonstrating American sports techniques. He reported that a number of well-known American coaches have gone to Israel to develop athletic interests and abilities there.